From the Deputy Principal

Last week I had the privilege of attending the National Policy Forum in Canberra. This is for representatives from Christian schools across Australia and from many different branches of Christian education. CEN, to which Covenant belongs, CSA, the Lutheran Schools, AACS and the Adventist Schools were all represented.

There were sessions on funding, policy, social justice, school improvement and more, as well as a dinner in the Great Hall of Parliament House attended by politicians from both sides of politics. It was both interesting and challenging to be at such a forum in the current political climate.

But what were some key ideas to take away for me?

Several times we were told that putting more money into education is not a key factor in improving educational outcomes. Various researchers have looked into this and have found that, while it is clearly good to be able to pay teachers and provide adequate resources, just money on top of this has a negligible effect in improving student outcomes. What is the most important factor? It is what happens in the classroom, between the teacher and the students. This is as true of early years, where there is one teacher per class, as it is of later years where a student will be taught by six or more specialist teachers. It is the relationship of mutual trust and respect that allows learning to flourish and is one of the hallmarks of a good teacher. Such a teacher will prepare well, have deep knowledge and a set of teaching skills that they constantly reflect upon in order to improve their teaching.

This was not really a new idea for me but the reinforcement of something I have known for a while. Looking around at staff at Covenant, I see teachers who really care about the students, teachers who engage in postgraduate study and reading, who discuss teaching with other teachers and who undertake professional development. But they are also Christians who can help unfold to the students the beauty of Creation, the wonder of God’s love and the call to live for God’s glory.

Another reminder was that the smaller Christian schools, and those in remote areas, face enormous challenges. These schools may have few teachers and few resources, and everyone must be skilled in many areas. These schools are fragile and sometimes one family leaving can impact the ongoing viability of the school.

A final “take home” idea was that it is a great privilege to live in a place where a forum of Christian teachers can be held in our national capital and where those attending can engage with politicians in sometimes forthright discussion. A group from USA was astonished that so many Christian teachers could meet as one group and that politicians would attend and speak to them. There would be many other places where this would be an impossible dream.

We are very blessed here at Covenant. Let’s remember our colleagues in small schools and in countries where Christian education is difficult politically. Let’s pray for our politicians, too, that they continue to support Christian education. And let’s pray for all our teachers, that they may build those strong relationships that are the key to successful learning.

Mrs Chris O’Sullivan
Andrew’s Angle
Bursary & Building Fund

With the end of the financial year now approaching, it is a great time to consider partnering with the community at Covenant. We have a long history of generosity. The school pioneers gave financially for many years to the vision of Christian education - even knowing their own children would not benefit.

A brochure has been sent home to families by mail. It reminds us of our generous pioneering families and invites you to be part of this continuing culture. Donations to either the Building or the Bursary funds are 100% tax deductible. Such donations help reduce your tax and help the school at the same time. They help to keep the school operating costs at a reasonable level so that our school is affordable to as many Christian families as possible.

Donations to the Building Fund will be used for future building plans and donations to the Bursary Fund are used to provide fee relief to families less financially able.

A way for the school community to make tax deductible donations to these funds is by using an online credit card facility. Simply click the link or copy the link following into your web browser.


All donations will receive a tax deductible receipt. There is no fee for using this service. Your generosity is much appreciated.

If you would prefer to donate via cheque or EFT please contact me via alowry@covenant.nsw.edu.au. See more at www.covenant.nsw.edu.au/christian-school/founders-generosity-continued-by-current-families

Charter Bus Service - important announcement

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you that, due to the financial losses being incurred, the school Board and Executive have made the hard but necessary decision to terminate the trial of the charter bus services to both Collaroy/Cromer and Seaforth/Balgowlah at the end of Term 2. We are very sorry to reach this decision for the families that are using and benefitting from the service, but unfortunately the losses being incurred are unsustainable for our school community.

With this decision made, we ask that you please revert to previous travel arrangements or make alternative travel arrangements for your children from the start of Term 3.

Thank you for understanding the school’s position on this matter.

Mr Andrew Lowry, Business Manager

Careers News

JMC Academy Information Session
Thursday 5 June - 6.00pm, 1 Harris Street, Ultimo. An opportunity to ask lots of questions and gain a deeper insight into their courses, career outcomes, industry trends, fee-help and application process.

Macquarie University Parent information Evening
Wednesday 25 June - 6.00-8.00pm, Macquarie Theatre (Building W2.4A), Macquarie University. This evening provides an opportunity for parents and students in Years 10-12 to learn about Macquarie’s degrees, bonus point schemes, scholarships and the transition from high school to university. You will also have the opportunity to speak with staff and current students. This is a free event, however registration is essential.
http://mq.edu.au/future_students/undergraduate/parent_information/parent_information_evening.jsp

Macleay College Industry Days June 30 – July 4
The industry days give students a taste of their future careers while having some fun along the way. The days will be held in the first week of school holidays. Topics include marketing, journalism, advertising, public relations, event management, travel & tourism. See www.macleay.edu.au/news/2014-june-july-industry-days-macleay

Uni Myths Debunked
A great article, it is well worth taking the time to read.

Café Covie - Open every day 8.30 - 11.30am
School Canteen - Open Monday and Friday. Order online www.munchmonitor.com
CCS Uniform Shop - Open Monday 2.00-2.45pm and Wednesday 8.00-9.00am (ph: 9450 2696)
Joshua Challenge
The next Joshua Challenge will be held on Monday 16 June, from 7.30-9.15pm in the K Block Performance Space. Dr Graham Barker (former CCS parent and Board Member, former director of counselling education at Wesley Institute) is coming to speak on Depression and the Christian Man.

Community Freezer
The Community Freezer helps families in difficult times by providing meals when needed. We are very thankful for all those who have contributed by providing a meal, grocery vouchers or money to enable us to purchase food items. However, due to many challenging situations we are running low and would appreciate help. Please contact the school office or Caroline Kilby on 0427 105 060 for further information.

Thank you for your consideration of serving our school community in this way.

Covie School Ski Trip Invitation
For Year 10-11 students, ex-students and others from the Covie Community
Notes have gone out for those in Years 10 and 11 who are keen to join us for our annual ski trip. We depart at noon on Friday 15 August and return late on Sunday 17 August. It’s a great time away so if you are keen to join let me know! A copy of the letter sent home, containing details, can be found at www.covenant.nsw.edu.au/community/forms-policies.html

Mrs Kathy Freestone, Ski Trip Coordinator

Secondary Girls’ New Summer Uniform
Thank you to all those parents and students who have completed the surveys regarding the possibility of a new girls’ summer inform. The survey closes this Friday (6 June). If you haven’t already done so, please feel free to complete the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/GirlsSummerUniform.

Secondary School Attendance
Some students are regularly late for no real reason other than that they did not get up in time to get to school. This is not acceptable, especially in the later years of schooling. Lateness by just ten minutes a day adds up to just under an hour a week - the equivalent of a missed lesson. In addition, the teacher and students already in class are interrupted. Please note that high school students who are late without reason can expect detentions.

All secondary students who arrive late must sign in at the office. All senior students who leave the school grounds during the day must sign out, and sign in when they return. Thank you.

EVENING OF MUSIC
Come and be entertained by some of our wonderful Music students
Thursday 5 June – 7.00pm
in the PAS for drinks and canapés
then 7.30pm in the
Covenant School Hall
Entry by Gold Coin Donation

What’s New on the Blog Site?

Eisteddfod Congratulations
Angela Asikin (Year 4) received first place in the 9 years & under Strings Solo graded section at the Northern Beaches Eisteddfod held on 25 May at Curl Curl North Primary School. Angela played a beautiful violin piece, Vivaldi’s “Concerto in A Minor Op.3 No.6, accompanied by piano.

There were also some outstanding results for our Drama students for mimes and duologues, including: 1st place Duologue in costume: Joanna Swaddling and Curtis Grey; 1st place heat of Duologue in costume: Nathan Kilby and Daniel Baikie; 2nd place: Abi Hunter and Alex Buttrose; 2nd in duologue heat: Kristin Lotter and Charlotte Pitt; most outstanding duologue: Joanna Swadling and Curtis Gray.

An amazing number of students also received Highly Commended awards. See all these results and photos at http://www.covenant.nsw.edu.au/christian-school/northern-beaches-eisteddfod-2014-results-for-mimes-and-duologues

Language Perfect Championships
This international competition is becoming more popular every year, with schools competing all over Australia and worldwide. This year, three of our Year 11 French students, Chloe Middleton, Brigitte Norsa and Rachel Shao, achieved two silver awards and one bronze award, and one German student achieved a bronze award. There were many other high achievers and we are very proud of the efforts our students make to achieve a high standard in their Language learning.

New Blog Posts to Visit
Letters to Parents

Some may not have been distributed yet.

Date of
Letter Class Topic
12/5 12 Business Studies Conference
15/5 12 English Ext 1 Student Day
23/5 9 German Excursion
10 Careers Program
11-12 HSC Drama Night
30/5 12 English Excursion
2/6 7-11 Netball Gala Day
3/6 3-4 Swim Program Term 3
5-6 Term 3 Sport

If you did not receive a letter relevant to your child, please ask your child to collect a copy from their teacher or go to http://tinyurl.com/CCSNotes.

Middle Section Tests & Assignments

Here are tests and assignments given to the students which are due a week or more from the issue date. This will assist students and parents in planning their work load.

Subject and Title Date Due
YEAR 7 Mathematics Class Test 6/6
Biblical Studies Review
Grp 1,2 and 4 12/6
Grp 3 16/6
English (Mrs Gardner’s Class) Wide Reading 20/6
YEAR 8 Science Task (Mrs Wright) 6/6
DT assignment – herbs Wk 9
NB: Mathematics unit tests are held regularly at the end of units. Students are notified in class at least two days prior.

Community Notices

(The school cannot necessarily make careful assessments of the quality or integrity of all of the services or events advertised in the newsletter. The Board welcomes feedback from members of the school community about the organisations which receive promotion. Comments should be in writing, addressed to the Board, and will be treated confidentially.)

• Next PeaceWise Hub Meeting
  The Four Promises of Forgiveness. Next meeting Thu 12 Jun,7.30-9:30pm at the staffroom of Covenant Christian School. Everyone interested in Biblical peace-making welcome. For more info please contact Ping Chen on 0412 664 225 or yinpingchuchen@gmail.com or David Coy at dbcoy@optusnet.com.au.

• July Holiday Camps
  Indoor soccer clinics at the Football Factory, 2/8 Aquatic Drive, Frenchs Forest. 9am-3pm for 5-13 year olds. Ph: 9972 7766 or go to www.thefootballfactory.com.au

• Student Exchange Information Evening
  Free Information Evening - Thu 5/6, at the Adina Apartment Hotel Sydney, Corner Kent & Bathurst St, Sydney and starts at 7.30pm. Call 1300 135 331 or visit www.studentexchange.org.au or for more information.

• Warringah Council Holiday Program
  Digital Clay Animation, Skateboarding/In Line/Scootering, Skateboard Deck Illustration workshops, Roller Disco and more. Brochures containing info and vouchers for a range of holiday activities available from the school office.

• Mastering the Exams
  Free lecture for students to help with HSC and Trial Exams. Sat 14/6, the University of Sydney. Register online or 1300 364 173. Bookings essential. www.tsfx.com.au

Term Dates for 2014

Term 1 – Tue 28 Jan – Fri 11 Apr
Term 2 – Tue 29 Apr – Fri 27 Jun
Term 3 – Mon 21 Jul – Fri 19 Sep
Term 4 – Tue 7 Oct – Thu 4 Dec

Term Dates for 2015

Term 1 – Tue 27 Jan – Thu 2 Apr
Term 2 – Tue 21 Apr – Fri 26 Jun
Term 3 – Mon 20 Jul – Fri 18 Sep
Term 4 – Tue 6 Oct – Thu 3 Dec

What’s Coming Up!

Thursday 5 June
Secondary ICAS Science Competition
School Tour (9.15am)
Evening of Music

Monday 9 June
Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday

Wednesday 11 June
Primary Athletics Carnival

Thursday 12 June
CIS Cross Country

Friday 13—Saturday 14 June
Year 10 Yarrabah Training

Monday—Friday 16-20 June
ICAS Writing Competition this week

Tuesday 17 June
Secondary Zone Athletics

ICAS Spelling Competition

Thursday 19 June
Year 8 Showcase Evening

Friday 20 June
Primary Speech Giving Assembly

Monday 23 June
School Tour (9.15am)

Wednesday 25 June
Year 12 Dance Night

Thursday 26 June
Year 12 Drama Night

Friday 27 June
Year 11 Yarrabah Trippers depart

Last day of Term 2

Monday 21 July
First day of Term 3

This Week’s Quizzle

the SAILING wind

Answer to the last Quizzle

TOO MANY TO COUNT